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09/222,833

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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EXAMINER

LM02/0426

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2776

DATE MAILED:

04/26/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/222,833

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

Art Unit

2776

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☒ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 15) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 16) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 17) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 18) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 19) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2776

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Specification

3. The title is long, not clear and needs to be corrected. One suggestion is "A document managing apparatus for managing the distribution of documents."

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1-7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 1(line 6) and claim 7 (line 7), it is suggested that the "." after "communication network" be replaced with ",".

The same issue is applied for claim 2 (line 24) after "claim 1", and claim 3 (line 7) after "claim 2". Appropriate correction is required.

Art Unit: 2776

In all claims, it is suggested that the phrase "the relation between" being deleted to make the claims clearer.

In addition, in claim 1, it is suggested that the last part of the claim being rewritten as "a rewriting section for rewriting any of the attribute information included in the document when said determination section determines that the attribute information conflicts with the master information". Since the purpose of rewriting is to remove the conflict, the phrase "to attribute information ...so as not to conflict with the master information" is not necessary.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention.

Regarding claim 3 (lines 13-14), it is not clear that "said apparatus" refers to a document management apparatus or the second information device since it is within the preamble about the second information management device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2776

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (US Pat No. 5,893,114, 4/6/99, filed 11/14/96) in view of Domen et al (US Pat No. 5,504,676, 4/2/96, filed 5/26/94).

Regarding independent claim 1, Hashimoto discloses:

- storing a plurality of documents (acquiring a document from a document management server and storing document in a database (col 2, lines 49-55))
- acquiring information from a device connected to the communication network (the document management server, the document database and the request relay means are connected through a communication network (col 2, lines 55-62; col 4, lines 20-22, 45-55))

Hashimoto does not explicitly disclose the determining of the conflict between the attribute information included in the document and the master information, and the rewriting of the attribute information when the conflict is determined.

Domen discloses the updating of the format and data once per several times of use (col 1, lines 7-14, 26-34; col 2, lines 15-21). Domen also discloses the storing of slip documents (col 5, lines 39-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Domen into Hashimoto to have an apparatus for managing documents, connected to a communication network,

Art Unit: 2776

so that the documents are stored and updated periodically. The fact that Domen shows the updating documents periodically implies that the system rewrites the data when the data is found improper. In other words, data found conflicting is rewritten.

Regarding claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Domen discloses:

- said document is a document including the corporate organization code and the corporate organization name (the ordering slip includes the department name and the department code (col 6, lines 15-27, 29-34, 45-50; col 7, lines 62-67; col 8, lines 5-11))
- the determining section, the rewriting section and their purposes as discloses in claim 1 above

Domen does not explicitly disclose the cases of conflict when an organization code is included in a document but the combination of the organization code and the organization name is not included in the master information, or when the organization name is included in a document but the combination of the organization code and the organization name is not included in the master information. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have employed Domen and combined Domen into Hashimoto. The data including the department name and the department code, and format as taught by Domen, which may be the improper information during a period of time (that means there is a conflict

Art Unit: 2776

between the information each document and the information in the master information), is updated (that means rewritten).

Regarding to claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, Domen discloses that:

- the document mentioned is an object for distribution correlated to job information (col 1, lines 7-37)
- the retrieving of the department name corresponding to each ordering slip (col 6, lines 29-50)
- the rewriting of the content of documents when the combination of the organization code and the organization name retrieved does not coincide the combination of the organization code and the organization name included in the document (since the text data contents are stored in the file...the content received can be edited on the receiving computer (col 8, lines 28-34; col 14, lines 47-55; col 1, lines 26-34)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have employed Domen since Doment discloses ordering slips (as a document) distributed in the network so that a user can edit the information data retrieved when the data is improper.

Regarding claims 4-6, which are dependent on claims 1-3 respectively, Domen discloses the using of an electronic email to notify things to other work station (command is issued from a terminal .. the prepared form may be transmitted to other

Art Unit: 2776

work station by an electronic mail (col 2, lines 31-34)). It is noted that Domen does not disclose the notification of changing of attribute information in the document to each department. However, the using of electronic email to notify things to other workstation motivates the notification of the changing of attribute information to each department through the communication network using department addresses.

Claim 7 is for a computer-readable medium for claim 1, and therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tokuda (US Pat No. 5,878,398, 3/2/99, filed 3/20/96) teaches a method and system for managing workflow of electronic documents.

Hayashi et al. (US Pat No. 6,014,677, 1/11/00, filed 6/10/96) teaches a document management device and method for managing documents by utilizing additive information.

Nakatsuyama (US Pat No. 5,875,441, 2/23/99, filed 5/6/97) teaches a document database management system and document database retrieving method.

Kiuchi et al. (US Pat No. 5,765,167, 6/9/98, filed 12/5/95) teaches a data file update processing apparatus.

Art Unit: 2776

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is (703)-305-0432. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax number to this Art Unit is (703) 308-5403.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5403 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Application/Control Number: 09/222,833

Page 9

Art Unit: 2776

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington. VA. Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Clh

4/24/00


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER